Miyamoto Kano's

Amayakana Toge

chapter 1

PC: Ankoh

Scanner: Ankoh

Translator: Emilyn

Proofreaders: Ankoh & Shyyuchiyan

Layout: Purple_Feather

QC: Ankoh

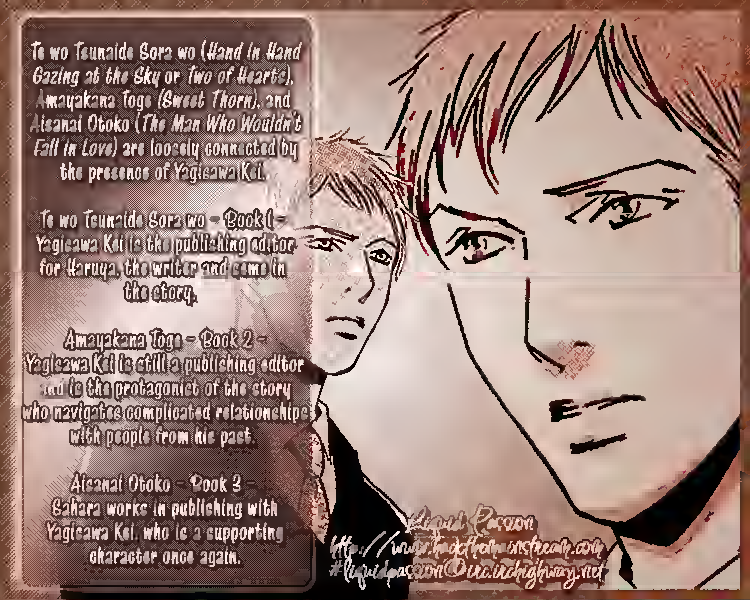
Kudos to Shyyuchiyan

Liquid Passion
http://www.hanbitmobi.com
liquidpassion@hanbitmobi.net

SUPER 1.50

Amayakana Toge

Miyamoto Kano


Te wo Tsunaide Sora wo (Hand in Hand Gazing at the Sky or Two of Hearts), Amayakana Toge (Sweet Thorn), and Aisanai Otoko (The Man Who Wouldn't Fall in Love) are loosely connected by the presence of Yagisawa Kei.
Te wo Tsunaide Sora wo - Book 1 - Yagisawa Kei is the publishing editor for Haruya, the writer and game in the story.
Amayakana Toge - Book 2 - Yagisawa Kei is still a publishing editor and is the protagonist of the story who navigates complicated relationships with people from his past.
Aisanai Otoko - Book 3 - Sahara works in publishing with Yagisawa Kei, who is a supporting character once again.
Liquid Passion
http://www.redfoxpublishing.com/
#LiquidPassion@Dreamwidehighway.net

SUPER BE×BOY COMICS

CONTENTS

Amayakana Toge

Miyamoto Kano

Soft Thorn Act 1	3
Soft Thorn Act 2	35
Soft Thorn Act 3	69
Soft Thorn: A sprinkling of snow	107
Liar's Thorn	139
Sweet Thorn – Epilogue	177
Afterword	191

やわらかい棘
Amayakana Toge Act.1
I HAVE BAD LUCK WITH MEN.
YAGIBANA.
YES?
TAKE HIM, FOR EXAMPLE...
YOU CAN STAY HERE AND TAKE IT EASY UNTIL CHECKOUT TIME.
I'M GOING ON AHEAD.
SURE.

I'M SORRY THAT IT'S ALWAYS THIS HURRIED
THAT'S OKAY...
やわらかい棘
Soft Thorn Act.1

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. ABOUT IZUMI THAT NEW AUTHOR...
I'LL OFFICIALLY BE PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF HIM.
DID YOU TELL YOUR WIFE THAT YOU'RE AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP?
YEAH. I SAID I'D BE BACK BY TONIGHT THOUGH SO I'VE GOT TO GET GOING.
HMM.
HE'LL BE IN SAFE HANDS. I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR EIGHT YEARS ALREADY.
YOU'VE LET YOUR HAIR GROW... I LIKE IT BETTER THIS WAY.
YOU DO?
YEAH.
YEAH. I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT.

NOGI-SAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, I MEAN
HM?
...LET'S END IT.
THIS THING BETWEEN US
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN?
YES
YOU SERIOUS THIS TIME?
YES
...ALRIGHT, THEN WE'LL GO BACK TO BEING SUPERVISOR AND EMPLOYEE, NOTHING MORE
I'M GLAD THAT MY BOSS IS SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING MAN
I'LL SAY

WE'VE GOT A MEETING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING,
SO DON'T BE LATE
YES, SIR
THIS ILLICIT AFFAIR I'M HAVING WITH MY BOSS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE
HOW THE MAN WHO I THOUGHT WAS MY LOVER FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS DUMPED ME
IN ORDER TO BE WITH THIS KID WHO'S A WHOLE GENERATION YOUNGER THAN HE IS
SLAM
OR, EVEN BETTER,
throb
AS FOR THE GUY BEFORE THAT...

Editing Room 2
EDITOR YAGISAWA! SHOULDN'T YOU BE TAKING YOUR CELL WITH YOU?
AH, SORRY.
IN ANY CASE.
WELL THEN, SIR, I'M OFF TO MEET WITH THE NEW AUTHOR, IZUMI-SENSEI
ARE YOU GOING STRAIGHT BACK HOME AFTER?
SO WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE, THIS IZUMI KYOUICHI?
I'VE HAD IT WITH MEN
WELL,
HE'S HANDSOME BUT DOESN'T REALLY TALK MUCH
YES WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THINGS OVER A MEAL, SO IT MIGHT GET A LITTLE LATE
Okay.

REALLY?
WE WERE THINKING OF DOING A SPECIAL FEATURE ON HIM IN ONE OF OUR BOOKS
IF WE INCLUDE A PICTURE OF HIM, HE'LL HAVE AN INSTANT FEMALE FAN BASE!
I SEE BUT IN THAT CASE, SURELY SOMEONE ELSE IS MORE SUITED FOR THIS TASK THAN I AM.
WELL, HE'S A BIT OF AN ODD ONE, SEE HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR YOU
HE WHAT?
HE ASKED FOR THE NAMES OF ALL OUR EDITORS, APPARENTLY HE LIKED THE SOUND OF YOURS, YAGISAWA.
SLAM
I JUST HOPE HE ISN'T SOME KIND OF WEIRDO...
Goodbye
I SUDDENLY DON'T FEEL AS KEEN TO MEET HIM ANYMORE...
HAHAHA!
GOOD LUCK! IF IT'S A BATTLE OF LOOKS YOU'LL WIN ANY DAY!

NICE TO MEET YOU...
HOW DO YOU DO? I'M YAGISAWA FROM BUNGEI PUBLISHING.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE WORKING WITH YOU.
YOU LOOK SO YOUNG. YOU'RE ABOUT... TWENTY-SEVEN, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY?
THAT'S RIGHT. I JUST TURNED TWENTY-SEVEN LAST MONTH.
THE PLEASURE'S MINE. I'M IZUMI KYOUICHI.
OUR CHIEF EDITOR ASKED ME TO SEND HIS BEST REGARDS TO YOU. HE WAS OVERJOYED WHEN HE HEARD YOU WERE WILLING TO WRITE FOR OUR FIRM.
Bungei Publ
YAGISAWA KEI
FAX
Editor
OH, NO...

I'M STILL JUST A NOVICE...
SO I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR BEING GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY.
...?
WHAT IS THIS? THIS SUDDEN FEELING OF DEJA VU...
NOT AT ALL...
MUST JUST BE MY IMAGINATION...
WELL, LET'S GET STRAIGHT TO THE SUBJECT OF YOUR NEW PIECE...
SURE...
IZUMI-SENSEI ARE YOU OKAY WITH DRINKING ALCOHOL?
YES... WITHIN REASON

WELL, I'M SURE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH OF ME DRAGGING YOU AROUND TALKING BUSINESS RIGHT?
YOU MEAN... A PLACE WHERE LOTS OF GIRLS GO?
NOT AT ALL...
THERE'S A GOOD BAR JUST AROUND THE CORNER THAT I'D RECOMMEND...
EXCELLENT... WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME FOR A DRINK OR TWO?
OH
YOU'RE BEING MODEST AGAIN... DON'T THE LADIES LINE UP AROUND THE BLOCK FOR YOU?
I WAS ALWAYS JUST A PLAIN LITERATURE STUDIES BOOKWORM, SEE.
BUT I FIND IT HARD TO RELAX IN PLACES LIKE THAT
ACTUALLY, YAGISAWA-SAN

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN WOMEN.
I-I SEE ER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO NI-CHOUME* OR SOMEWHERE THEN?
Ahem
Heh.
I'M GAY
IT'S NOT SUCH A RARE THING IN MY PROFESSION, SURELY
HUH?
*T/N: Gay district in Tokyo
N-NO, I WOULD NEVER RESUME TO—
YAGISAWA-SAN.
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY PLACE?
IT'S ONLY TEN MINUTES BY TAXI.
WH...T!?

YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY SLOW ON THE UPTAKE
I'M SAYING THAT I WANT YOU TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH ME.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE...?
SEE... I ACTUALLY KNOW QUITE A BIT ABOUT YOU.
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE GAY,
AND THAT YOU HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AUTHOR ITOU HARUYA.
HOW—

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU...
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW I FOUND OUT...
...WH...T DO YOU SAY?
WE'RE GOING TO DRAW ATTENTION IF WE STAY HERE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO COME OVER TO MY PLACE.
LET'S GO, THEN.
crush

HEY.....
LOCK
SLAM

WHY...?
WHAT'S THE SUDDEN RUSH?
STOP IT!
I-I'M MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU WERE SAYING BEFORE—
I'LL TELL YOU AFTERWARDS
toss
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND YAGISAWA-SAN—
HOW THE HELL DO YOU EVEN KNOW ABOUT THAT!?
HAVE YOU SPLIT UP WITH NOGI-SAN YET?
whump
AH.
GREAT, YOU'VE STOPPED BEING ALL POLITE WHEN YOU TALK TO ME NOW. MUCH BETTER THIS WAY.
WAIT
!
I WANT TO HURRY UP AND HAVE SEX WITH YOU

YOU WANT ME TO WRITE FOR YOUR COMPANY, DON'T YOU?
YANK
SURELY, THIS IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR ENSURING YOUR WORK GOES SMOOTHLY.
SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY IT.
IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE SUCH A BASTARD, I'D NEVER HAVE ASKED YOU TO WRITE FOR US...
HEHE... IS THAT RIGHT?
NH...

NH!
STOP THAT...
I REALLY HAVE BAD LUCK WITH MEN
UH...
DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT...
QUIT TALKING LIKE THAT. IT'S SICKENING
SO NOW I HAVE TO LET THIS DAMN BASTARD
UH...
SLAM
HAHA...
IT'S SPOILING THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE OF YOURS

AH...
WHAT...? IT'S JUST AN OLD BURN MARK, THAT'S ALL.
OH... RIGHT.
NH!
HUH...
YOU LIKE THAT SPOT?
tick

HAHH
HEY YAGISAWA-SAN.
NH, UH...
PUSH
THAT'S WHERE THE THORN IS BURIED...
N-
NO...
shrug
REALLY?
NH!
YOU WANT IT DON'T YOU?
thrust
AAH...!
AS...
AS IF!

AH!
HAAH...
OW...
THAT HURTS! DON'T BE SO ROUGH!
BUT YOU LIKE IT A BIT PAINFUL, DON'T YOU...?
REALLY...?
H-HOW DID YOU...
NH!
slide
NH!
SIT UP.

MMH...
AH...
NH...
YAGISAWA-SAN...
AH!
HAAH...

COVER
FLICK
HEY
YOU CAN CARRY ON SLEEPING FOR A WHILE LONGER, YOU KNOW.
TOMORROW'S SATURDAY, AFTER ALL.
CREAK
YOU THINK I COULD SLEEP HERE AFTER GETTING FUCKED THAT HARD BY YOU?
CALL ME A TAXI. I'M GOING HOME
HM?

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT
HUH!?
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, CARRYING ON LIKE YOU KNOW ME!
TELL ME! NOW!
NOW LOOK HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT?
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE A SEAT FIRST
WE BOTH ENJOYED OURSELVES DIDN'T WE?
~~~
Flomp
AM I TO ASSUME YOU'RE MY OWN PERSONAL STALKER OR SOMETHING?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY ALONG WITH YOUR GAMES IZUMI-SENSEI
~~~

A STALKER, IS IT?
Heh..
DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY REAL NAME IS?
IZUMI IS JUST A PEN-NAME.
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!
GOOD POINT. I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE IN YOUR COMPANY YET.
CRUST
YAGISAWA-SAN.

I'M SUBARU—
NAKAYAMA SUBARU
—NAKAYAMA—
SUBARU—?
THAT'S RIGHT—
MY FIRST LOVE
WAS THE BIGGEST ASSHOLE YOU'LL EVER MEET.

TWELVE YEARS AGO...
OI, SUBARU!
!
...WHAT IS IT, NII-CHAN?
RUN ALONG TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND BUY US SOME ICE CREAM.
nuwa!

COME ON, I TOLD YOU TO MOVE IT!
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF DOING HOMEWORK
THAT SCAREDYCAT LITTLE RUNT? HE'S A PAIN IN THE BACKSIDE, THAT'S WHAT HE IS
YOUR BROTHER'S SO CUTE! DID YOU SAY HE'S IN HIS THIRD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH?
THIS IS MY BROTHER, WHO'S THREE YEARS OLDER THAN I AM.
DASH
Look at him run!
AND HE'S A COMPLETE ASSHOLE
YOU'RE SO MEEEAN!
NII-CHAN, I BROUGHT THE ICE CREAM.
WHAT? BUT YOUR BROTHER WILL BE BACK SOON!
FORGET ABOUT HIM LET'S HURRY UP AND DO IT.
PANT PANT
JUST LEAVE IT OUT THERE!
HE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT BOTH OUR PARENTS WORK AND ARE HARDLY EVER
IT'S FINE. NOW TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF, BABY.
Thanks, sweetie. ♡

Beep
TO A SHY LONER SUCH AS MYSELF,
HE BRINGS BACK A DIFFERENT GIRL EVERY DAY
AND SLEEPS AROUND TO HIS HEART'S CONTENT.
HIS WILD WAYS ARE SOMETHING BOTH TO BE ADMIRED,
Kyahhahat
CRASH
RATTLE
So noisy
Kyaa
AND DISGUSTED WITH

SLAM
ACK, HE'S BACK!
IS EVERYONE OUT?
MY LITTLE BROTHER MIGHT BE AROUND SOMEWHERE
THEN, ONE DAY
smile
THERE'S YOUR BROTHER HE'S IN THE KITCHEN
HUH
HE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE YOU THOUGH WATARU...
PSH
I CAUGHT A RARE SIGHT OF MY BROTHER BRINGING A GUY ROUND TO OUR PLACE

THE NAME OF THAT BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN
WAS YAGIBAWA KEI
Amayakana Toge
Act.1/END

甘やかな棘

Amayakana Toge

Kei Yagisawa

Celebrating
500 Releases!
Liquid Passion
Biblo Eros
www.HackTheMainstream.Com
#liquidpassion@irc.irchighway.net

Miyamoto Kano

Amayakana Toge chapter2

PC: Arhcat
Scanner: Arhcat
Translation: Sandgroo
Proofreader: Arhcat & Grayunderpants
Editor: Zila
QC: Arhcat, Grayunderpants & Kvela

Liquid Passion
http://www.hackthemainstream.com
#liquidpassion@irc.irchighway.net

やわらかい棘

Act.2
Soft Thorn

AH CRAP
I JUST ERASED STUFF THAT WASN'T EVEN WRONG
Rub Rub
I WONDER IF THAT WAS ONE OF NII-CHAN'S FRIENDS
BUT HE HARDLY EVER BRINGS GUYS BACK HOME WITH HIM...
HE LOOKED SO PRETTY, ALMOST LIKE A GIRL...

SLAM
!
I'LL BE GOING, THEN
RIGHT
Want to catch another glimpse of him
HURRY
CREAK
PEEK
SAY
WOULD YOU MIND AWFULLY IF I CAME AGAIN?
HUH. ONLY IF I'M BORED OUT OF MY FUCKING MIND AND GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
!

WHAT THE ..?
BYE, THEN.
YEAH.
IT SEEMS LIKE
For real?
THIS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING BROTHER OF MINE
Yazumi
SWINGS BOTH WAYS
AND SO THAT GUY STARTED COMING ROUND FROM TIME TO TIME, BETWEEN THE STEADY STREAM OF GIRLS
I TRY NOT TO THINK TOO HARD ABOUT WHAT HE AND MY BROTHER DO WHEN THEY'RE ALONE IN THE ROOM TOGETHER BUT

I FIND MYSELF CARING MUCH MORE ABOUT HIM
THAN I DO ABOUT ANY OF THE GIRLS
IT APPEARS THAT HE'S MORE OF A FUCK BUDDY THAN A BOY-FRIEND.
WHEN I SEE HIM BEING TREATED SO COLDLY,
AH!
CREAK
SHUT

HELLO THERE
...
WELL, SEE YOU
WAI
WAIT, UM I W-WANTED TO TALK TO YOU
AFTER YOU
I-IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO BE HERE?
Pant
Pant
EH?
Scary
CLOSE
OF COURSE IT IS.
JUST KEEP IT DOWN A BIT MY MOM'S SLEEPING INSIDE

WHAT... AT THIS HOUR?
YEAH SHE'S A NURSE, AND SHE WORKS THE NIGHT-SHIFT
BUT SHE SLEEPS LIKE THE DEAD, SO WE SHOULD BE OKAY FOR A WHILE
THERE'S ONLY HER AND ME, SO WE HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER, Y'KNOW?
WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
Splash
AH, Y-YES PLEASE...
OWW...
YOUR FACE... DID WATARU DO THAT TO YOU?
EH?
HE...
HE HITS ME TOO, SOMETIMES SO I THOUGHT...
Clink
I'M REALLY SORRY
HUH?
YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT ME AND WATARU DO IN HIS ROOM, DON'T YOU?
...UM... IS IT ME, OR HAS THE WAY YOU TALK CHANGED A LITTLE?
OH, YEAH
WATARU WON'T LET ME NEAR HIM UNLESS I ACT MORE LIKE A GIRL THAN A GUY.

AH...
BUT, UM...
CALL ME KEI, SUBARU-KUN YAGISAWA KEI
WHAT...?
WELL, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN STRAIGHT...
SO THE GIRLIER I AM THE BETTER, RIGHT?
74
EH... HOW DID YOU KNOW MY...
I SAW THIS.
It's pretty cute
...
...YEAH...
SO... WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
Clench
I KNOW...
YES?
K-KEI-SAN!
Y-YOU KNOW, MY BROTHER H-HE'S GOT A TON OF OTHER GIRLS THAT HE...

W-WHY?
WHY DO YOU GO THAT FAR JUST TO BE WITH HIM!?
WHAT!?
BUT IT'S OKAY. I'M JUST A GUY, SO...
IF I COMPLAINED, HE'D JUST STOP SEEING ME
...
BECAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM.
B-BUT THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU'RE BOTH G-GUYS...
SHHH! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
AH
I'M S-SO SORRY!

...I just scribble stuff in my notebook, that's all...
Aw, come on show me!
WHAT KIND OF STORIES DO YOU WRITE? SHOW ME ONE NEXT TIME, 'KAY?
EH...? Y-YEAH...
WHEN YOU GET TALKING TO HIM HE'S JUST LIKE ANY OTHER GUY.
HEY, SUBARU-KUN.
LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU, INSTEAD WATARU SAID YOU WRITE NOVELS IS THAT TRUE?
WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MUST DO TO HIM,
MY HEART ACHES SO MUCH IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BREAK.
Bye bye
I'M SURE HE FORCES HIMSELF TO BE SOMEONE HE'S NOT IN FRONT OF MY BROTHER
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME, THEN
YEAH
Goodbye
OW...
OI!

Whack
GET IT!?
I-I DIDN'T! LET GO, YOU'RE HURTING ME
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, Nii-SAN?
GRIP
IF YOU BREATHE A SINGLE WORD ABOUT HIM TO OUR PARENTS, I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!
LISTEN, YOU!
YOU HAD A SECRET LITTLE CHAT WITH KEI LAST TIME, DIDN'T YOU?
OW!
PUSH
WHAT ON EARTH
SLAM
CRASH
DAY BY DAY,
MY BROTHER'S TREATMENT OF HIM GOT WORSE AND WORSE.
DOES KEI-SAN SEE IN A JERK LIKE HIM?

NII-CHAN, THAT SOUND JUST NOW...
KEI-SAN!?
GET OUT!
!
GO ON, BEAT IT!
WATARU...
ALRIGHT
I'M SORRY, WATARU...
KEI-SAN, WAIT! YOU'RE BLEEDI...
...!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
SORRY, SUBARU...

PLEASE...
SHUT UP!
YOU CLEAR OFF TOO. GO ON!
NII-CHAN, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO THAT...
shove
...
I DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL LATER BUT
APPARENTLY MY BROTHER WAS PRETTY STRESSED ABOUT HIS FUTURE AT THAT POINT
OF COURSE,

I DOUBT HE'D HAVE GOTTEN MUCH SYMPATHY FROM ME
EVEN IF I'D KNOWN THAT AT THE TIME
AFTER THAT...
I STOPPED SEEING KEI-SAN AROUND AS MUCH
!
SUBARU
HEY THERE.
HM?

EH... UH, YEAH...
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL?
WHY...?
KEI-SAN!
LONG TIME NO SEE. YOU HERE TO BUY SOMETHING?
thump thump
WHY DOES MY HEART FEEL SO...
THAT STAND-UP COLLAR'S ADORABLE
K-KEI-SAN, COME WITH ME A SECOND!
EH!? HEY, SUBARU!
pant...
pant
Pant

SUBARU, WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'RE DRIPPING WITH SWEAT!
Wipe
Wipe
...
K-KEI-SAN, I...
HM?
COME ON, FACE THIS WAY...
I... I'M...
YEAH I'M SURE OF IT...
IN LOVE WITH YOU...

SILLY!
PAT!
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS
YOU JUST GOT THE WRONG IDEA SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, THAT'S ALL
I-I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING WRONG!
!
I THINK ABOUT W-WANTING TO KISS YOU, KEI-SAN... AND...
AND I DON'T WANT TO LET WATARU DO THOSE THINGS TO YOU...
THEN WHAT?
JUST BECAUSE WATARU AND I ARE LIKE THAT, YOU THINK...
THAT'S WHY..!
IT...IT'S BECAUSE I...

YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE A MUCH BETTER MAN THAN WATARU IS.
SUBARU.
!
I JUST KNOW IT...
SEE YOU AROUND
BYE-BYE
KEI-SAN!

KEI-SAAAN!
WAIT!
I THINK
I MUST HAVE BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM
SINCE THE FIRST TIME HE LOOKED AT ME WITH THAT SMILE...
MAN, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, SUGARU?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU JUST PASSED THE TEST TO GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL. WHAT'S WITH THE MISERABLE LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

SIGH...
YOU'RE GOING TO COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN WITH US TOMORROW, YOU HEAR?!
CREAK
CLOSE
OKAY, OKAY!
...JUST FEELING A BIT DISHEARTENED, I GUESS...
GEEZ!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
KEI-SAN...
HE'S HERE?
SINCE HE CAME TO SEE WATARU
STEP
STEP

NO!
STOP IT WATARU, IT'S BURNING!
NO...
ARGH!
SHUT UP!
!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE OH-SO IN LOVE WITH ME EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GUY
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO BRAND YOU TO COMMEMORATE THE FACT!
WATARU!
AAARGH!

STOP IT!
KEI-SAN!
WHAT THE!? GET THE FUCK OUT, SUBARU!
NGH, SUBARU...
NO, DON'T GO AWAY...
KEI-SAN! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WHAT IS THIS? DON'T TELL ME YOU AND THE LITTLE RUNT HAVE GOT SOMETHING GOING ON?
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU TRICKED MY LITTLE BROTHER INTO, KEI?
MAN I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED AS MUCH FROM A FAG LIKE YOU

SUBARU...!
HEY, YOU!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY EITHER, YOU LITTLE SHIT?
WATARU, STOP IT!
SHUT UP!
KICK!
YOU TWO THINK YOU CAN MAKE FUN OF ME?
FUCKING QUEERS!
WHACK
URK...
Pant
Pant
Pant

SHIT!
STOMP
YOU MAKE ME FUCKING SICK!
STOMP
STOMP
SLAM
SUBARU— ARE YOU OKAY?
TH-THAT WAS SO CRUEL OF HIM— WHY DO I HAVE TO HAVE SUCH A JERK FOR A BROTHER...?
!
KEI-SAN, YOUR CHEST!
SUBARU—
UUUH—

...I'LL BE FINE IT'S NO BIG DEAL
IT'S BLISTERING REALLY BAD! ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
YES, IT IS! WE HAVE TO COOL IT!
EH...?
YOU KNOW WATARU WASN'T LIKE THAT AT THE BEGINNING...
I WANTED TO DO WHATEVER I COULD TO HELP HIM...
BUT I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T WORK OUT. NOT WITH ME BEING A GUY AND ALL...
...
ALL I WANTED WAS TO STAY WITH WATARU FOREVER...
BE IT AS A SEX FRIEND, PUNCHING BAG, OR WHATEVER.
BUT HE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH SCHOOL, AND MESSED UP HIS EXAMS... IT MUST'VE REALLY GOTTEN TO HIM
THAT'S WHEN THAT FOUL TEMPER OF HIS STARTED...

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!
YOU'RE SO STUPID, KEI-SAN!
HOW CAN YOU STILL BE IN LOVE WITH HIM WHEN HE TREATS YOU LIKE THIS!
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND.
SO... DON'T EVER FALL IN LOVE WITH A MAN...
OKAY...?
KEI-SAN... I LOVE YOU.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE
I REALLY DO

SUBARU...
NH...!
NO, SUBARU...
WE CAN'T
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
KEI-SAN
WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO...?
SUBARU...

AH...
HAAH.
HAH—
CREAK
HEY, KEI-SAN
ARE YOU OKAY? DOES IT HURT...?
I'M OKAY. SUBARU...
THE DOOR...
LOCK IT.
KISS ME...

KEI-SAN—
I LOVE YOU—
TO FIND OUT
SO DO I—
I LOVE YOU, TOO
I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE
SUBARU...
WHETHER HE REALLY MEANT THOSE WORDS

BECAUSE THAT WAS THE LAST
I SAW OF HIM.
NII-CHAN
WHAT?
KEI-SAN ISN'T GOING TO COME ROUND HERE ANYMORE, IS HE?
CAN YOU GIVE ME HIS MOBILE NUMBER?
EH!?
WHA? HOW SHOULD I KNOW HIS NUMBER? ANYWAY, THAT GUY'S LONG GONE
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? THAT GUY'S MOVED TO TOKYO TO GO TO ONE OF THE UNIVERSITIES THERE!
...!

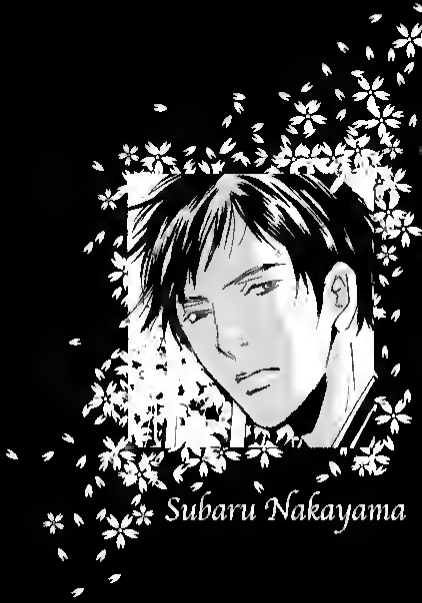
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT FAG ANYMORE!
QUIT SCREECHING!
WH-WHERE DID HE GO? TELL ME!
THWACK
URG!
SLAM
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR? HEY!
SHIT...

THAT'S SO CRUEL!
CRUEL.
SUBARU
MY BROTHER AND KEI ARE BOTH
I LOVE YOU
SUCH LIARS!
KEI-SAN
WHY!?

SUEA...
RU...?
ARE YOU REALLY SUBARU!?
WATARU'S LITTLE BROTHER!?
THAT'S RIGHT.
KEI-SAN,
IT'S BEEN A LONG TWELVE YEARS, HASN'T IT?

Soft Thorn

甘やかな棘



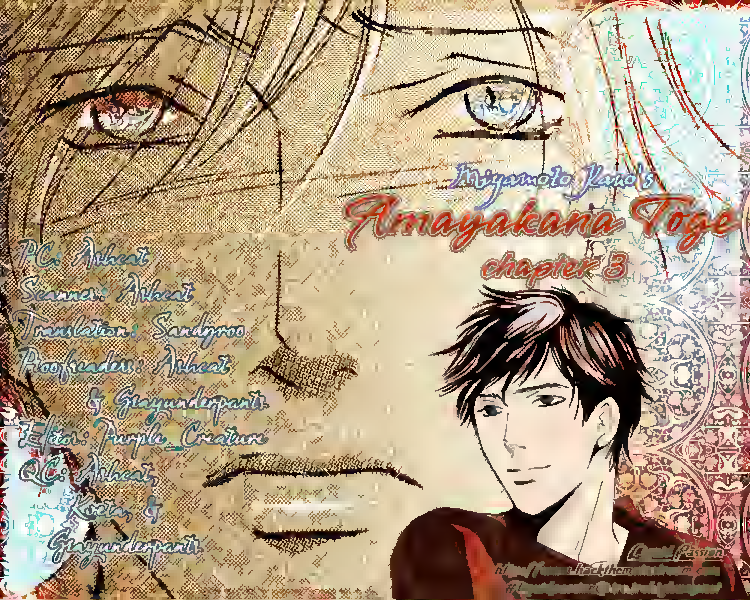
Subaru Nakayama

Miyamoto Kano's

Amayakana Toge

chapter 3

PC: Arkcat
Scanner: Arkcat
Translation: Sandyroo
Proofreaders: Arkcat
& Straysundergarb
Editor: Purple_Creature
QC: Arkcat,
Kaeta, &
Straysundergarb



やわらかい棘
Soft Thorn Act.3

IT CAN'T BE TRUE...
I'M NOT LYING.
Mr. Nakayama
-sama
OH, HERE.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
...SEE?
IT'S ADDRESSED TO NAKAYAMA SUBARU-SAMA.

KEI-SAN?
WHY...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT FROM THE START...?
...I WASN'T SURE
IF YOU'D STILL REMEMBER ME
...FOR THE LONGEST TIME I HATED YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID BACK THEN...
BUT I WAS TOO MUCH OF A KID TO GO LOOK FOR YOU...
ABOVE ALL I THOUGHT YOU'D REJECTED ME AND THAT'S WHY YOU LEFT ME BEHIND...

SUBARU...
HOW COULD YOU THINK I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU?
LET ME SEE YOUR FACE PROPERLY...
...HAVEN'T YOU GROWN A LITTLE TOO MUCH?
Owl
Pull
IT'S NOT MY FAULT I GOT THIS TALL
in more places than one?
KEI-SAN
I NEVER FORGOT YOU IN ALL THESE TWELVE YEARS...

SUBARU... DID YOU COME LOOKING FOR ME?
YEAH...
WHEN I HEARD YOUR NAME AMONGST THOSE IN THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT, I KNEW STRAIGHT AWAY...
BEFORE NOGI-SAN YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH THE AUTHOR ITOU HARUYA, RIGHT?
I HEARD IT LASTED QUITE A LONG TIME BETWEEN YOU TWO.
BUT I COULDN'T VERY WELL APPROACH YOU
WITHOUT FIRST KNOWING WHAT THE SITUATION WAS...
...SO YOU DID SOME INVESTIGATING?
WELL, YEAH...
...LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT...
NO?
ROOU
THAT WOUND'S STILL TOO DEEP.
BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A REALLY NICE GUY
WE'RE STILL FRIENDS...SO I'VE MORE OR LESS GOTTEN OVER IT.

THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I SOLD OUT TO WRITE FOR THE MASSES.
WELL I'LL LEAVE THE MARKETING UP TO MY CAPABLE EDITOR.
WE CALL THAT POPULAR FICTION, SUBARU.
THAT MAN'S WRITING STYLE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE. HE CAN WRITE LITERARY PROSE...
MAYBE BUT YOUR BOOKS WILL SELL BETTER. I'M SURE OF IT.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU'D REALLY BECOME A NOVELIST?
...YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING...
KEI-SAN
HM?
I'M SURE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP EVEN MORE, SUBARU.
YEAH...
clonk
HAHA...
WELL, I HAD TO WORK FOR IT AFTER I FINISHED UNIVERSITY. I HARDLY MADE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET BY.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE MANAGED TO COME THIS FAR

I BET YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED THAT I'VE GOTTEN THIS OLD
OF COURSE NOT
WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE WORKING AT A PUBLISHING HOUSE
I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT IF I BECAME GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU TO NOTICE MY WRITING
I COULD GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN
I KNEW IT WAS YOU THE SECOND I SAW YOU KEI-SAN
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED IN THE SLIGHTEST
IT ALMOST FEELS
LIKE MAGIC

SUBARU...
I'M SO SORRY...
HOW OUR PATHS COULD CROSS AGAIN
NOW THE CUTE LITTLE SUBARU
THE BOY WHO LOVED ME SO MUCH
HAS GROWN INTO A MAN...
daze

OH, NOGI-SAN. I'M JUST PUTTING ON SOME TEA, SO IF YOU'D LIKE SOME...
WHAT?
YOU SHOULD LET ONE OF THE GIRLS DO THAT.
CLOSE
YAGISAWA?
OPEN
CLATTER
!
THE GIRLS MAKE BETTER TEA THAN YOU. SIMPLE AS THAT.
...ISN'T THAT A BIT SEXIST OF YOU, SIR?
OPEN
...
THAT REMINDS ME, THE NEW GIRLS THAT JUST JOINED THE COMPANY WERE MAKING A HUGE FUSS ABOUT YOU.
Kitchen area
HUH?
I'm ooo
THEY WERE SAYING YOU'RE WONDERFUL AND SO HANDSOME!
...GIRLS AREN'T THE ONES I WANT TO HEAR THOSE THINGS FROM!
HEY...
...DON'T YOU EVER THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF SOMEONE SAW US?
IT'S OKAY, I LOCKED THE DOOR.
!
...SIR, PLEASE.

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THAT IT'S OVER BETWEEN US
MM...
YOU DID, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO GET YOU OUT OF MY MIND
SIR
Your stubble's chafing me...
IF WE WERE SEPARATED FOR TWELVE YEARS
WOULD YOU STILL FEEL THE SAME FOR ME?
HUH?
MGH?
I'VE GOT A BOYFRIEND NOW
SO IT REALLY IS OVER
WHAT!?
WHO IS HE!?
Here's your tea.
THAT'S MY LITTLE SECRET.
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND WITH YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS?
I'VE BEEN DOING NO SUCH THING
OH, YES, YOU HAVE.

ARE YOU SURE EVERYTHING'S OKAY? I MEAN, REALLY?
THINGS GOING WELL WITH THAT IZUMI-KUN?
EH!?
OH, ER, YES, SIR. IT'S GOING JUST FINE!
I-IT'S NOTHING
?
...WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL RED FOR?
HE SURE IS GOOD-LOOKING, IF A LITTLE RESERVED AT TIMES.
...FINE, THEN I'LL BACK OFF.
WILL YOU REALLY, SIR?
YEAH. FAR BE IT FOR ME TO LAY MY HANDS ON SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY TAKEN.
IS HE A GOOD GUY, AT LEAST?
ER, I GUESS...

HAHA... NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
SURE.
COMPARED TO A BEARDED OLD MAN STILL LIVING IN THE CLOSET? YES HE IS
...WANT ME TO GET YOUR ASS TRANSFERRED OUT OF HERE?
AND SO THE M_GIC CONTINUES...
LET ME EAT SOMETHING FIRST, OKAY? I'M STARVING.
HMM...
FINE...
WAIT, SUBARU... YOU'VE ALREADY GOT DINNER READY, HAVEN'T YOU?
HMM...?
MH...

START COMING HOME EARLIER FROM NOW ON, OKAY?
HEY!
YOU GOING TO INTERFERE WITH MY WORK NOW?
IT DIDN'T TAKE US LONG TO FALL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER...
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT WORKING LATE WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH THE PROOFREADING, YOU KNOW.
OH RIGHT.
WE'VE SLEPT TOGETHER SO MANY TIMES, ALMOST AS IF WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR THE TWELVE YEARS SPENT APART.
BACK WHEN I FIRST MET YOU...
HEY SUBARU.
SAYING IT LIKE THAT'S JUST MEAN, KEI-SAN
IT'S WHAT YOU DID THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
Hmph
COULD IT BE THAT YOU WERE PLANNING ON SCREWING ME FROM THE WORD GO?
HM?
WELL, YEAH, BUT...

OF COURSE, I DIDN'T PLAN IT OR ANYTHING.
BACK THEN I WAS JUST FREAKING OUT AT BEING REUNITED WITH YOU.
...IT REALLY DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THAT AT THE TIME!
ARE YOU STILL ANGRY ABOUT THAT?
NOT ESPECIALLY.
I JUST GOT THE IMPRESSION IT'S THE KIND OF THING YOU DO A LOT.
AS IF.
I'M THE FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED TYPE.
WHY ELSE WOULD I SPEND TWELVE YEARS THINKING OF ONLY ONE PERSON?
...SEE?
...I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU THERE.
YOU'RE CERTAINLY A PASSIONATE AND, ABOVE ALL, PERSISTENT MAN.

I CAN'T.
I'VE GOT WORK TOMORROW, SO I'M GOING HOME.
...HEY...
YOU'RE STAYING OVER TONIGHT, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY...
I WANT TO TREASURE THE TIMES WE CAN BE TOGETHER LIKE THIS
CHE'
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL THE WEEKEND
Yeah, yeah.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE SUBARU!
UW, C'MON JUST MOVE IN WITH ME ALREADY!
THEN YOU CAN GO TO WORK STRAIGHT FROM HERE.
HOWEVER...
NH...

NO—NOT THERE…
THIS SPOT…
HE REALLY LEFT A SCAR ON YOU. DIDN'T HE…
AH!
THE THORN
SUBARU…
NH…
HEY…
DOES IT REMIND YOU OF HIM EVERY TIME YOU SEE IT…?
ULH…
IS STILL THERE…
KEI-SAN
TELL ME…THAT YOU LOVE ME
WHAT ARE YOU—
AH…

IT'S STILL BURIED
COME ON...
DEEP INSIDE
HAH!
AH!
NGH...
NN...
UUH...

I'M SURE IT'S STILL THERE WITHIN SUBARU, TOO.
SAY IT...!
GRIP
SAY IT
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME—
MORE THAN HIM...
UH...
SUBARU, WAIT
NOT SO HARD...
NOT JUST IN ME
CREAK
AH!
THE HIDDEN THORN
THAT TEARS US APART FROM THE INSIDE...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
sigh
...YEAH
MY THROAT HURTS THOUGH
YOU DO YELL RATHER LOUDLY KEI-SAN
AND JUST WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK THAT IS...?
...YOU DEFINITELY SEEM TO HAVE GAINED QUITE A LOT OF SEXUAL EXPERIENCE
I BET YOU'VE SLEPT AROUND A BIT HAVEN'T YOU?
HM. WELL, WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I DID
SEEING AS I'D ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A TASTE OF IT AT FIFTEEN... MY PATH WAS PRETTY MUCH SET...
...THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DIDN'T WANT TO HAPPEN
EH?
I MEAN—

I DIDN'T WANT
TO MAKE MORE PEOPLE INTO WHAT I AM.
THAT'S WHY I LEFT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING BACK THEN
NO, I THINK YOU'RE WRONG THERE
I TURNED OUT LIKE THIS BECAUSE I ALWAYS HAD THAT KIND OF INCLINATION
couch
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT I'M GAY, KEI-SAN
SUEARU.
SO DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.
MH?

WHAT'S WATARU DOING NOW?
GOOD QUESTION
CREAK
DON'T YOU SEE HIM ANYMORE?
...YOU'RE LYING.
...IS YOU KNOW, KEI-SAN,
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN ALONG WELL WITH MY BROTHER.

...YEAH, I DO.
YOUR EYEBROW ALWAYS TWITCHES WHEN YOU TELL A LIE.
WHY AREN'T YOU TELLING ME THE TRUTH?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE THAT GUY AGAIN?
YOU WANT TO SETTLE THE SCORE WITH HIM FROM TWELVE YEARS AGO?
WHAT GOOD IS THAT GOING TO DO?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW
EH?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT US—
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID TO ME DO YOU?
KEI-SAN!?
IT DIDN'T STOP AT PUNCHES AND KICKS
I—GOT RAPED BY A BUNCH OF HIS FRIENDS
THERE'S SO MANY OTHER—
!
WATARU WAS LAUGHING AS HE SPURRED THEM ON—
AND IT WASN'T JUST THAT ONE TIME, EITHER—!
KEI-SAN!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME—
YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMEMBER THOSE THINGS
IT'S ALL ANCIENT HISTORY IT'S BEEN TWELVE YEARS SINCE THEN
—
UUH
NGH
UUUH
ALRIGHT
WE'LL GO SEE WATARU
WE'LL GO
KEI-SAN

WHERE ARE WE DRIVING TO?
WELL IT'S A BIT FAR. IT'LL TAKE ABOUT TWO HOURS.
IS WATARU MARRIED?
YEAH. HE IS. THEY'VE GOT A TWO YEAR OLD DAUGHTER.
HMM.
SO WE REALLY WASN'T GAY, AFTER ALL.
MORE LIKE HE'S A BI WHO LEANS MORE TOWARD WOMEN, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
I GUESS.
HEY

I WONDER IF IT'S ALREADY BEEN SNOWING UP THERE...
YEAH...
Entrance
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THAT GUY BECAME A DOCTOR?
NO
HE'S HOSPITALISED HERE.
WHAT!?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN CLOSE TO A YEAR, NOW...
STEP
STEP
NOT CONTINUOUSLY, OF COURSE
BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL

West Ward
WH-WHY!?
HE'S GOT A KIND OF COMPLICATED PROGRESSIVE DISEASE.
HIS WIFE'S HERE...
—AH...
—!
CA...CAN IT BE CURED!?
...WHO KNOWS...
THIS IS IT.

Gurgle
OH? SUBARU-SAN?
HELLO— HOW'S HE FEELING?
ACTUALLY, HE SEEMS QUITE WELL TODAY!
HM?

IS THAT YOU, SUBARU? COME ON IN ALREADY...
YEAH! HANG ON ALRIGHT...
WHAT'S WRONG, SUBARU-SAN!?
HEY...!
OH, ER...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED
IT LOOKS LIKE HE BROUGHT SOMEONE WITH HIM, BUT...

KEI-SAN WAIT!
MY HEART...
AAH...
THE THORN...
WATARU...!
KEI-SAN!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU!?

IN TRUTH, I KNEW IT ALL ALONG
KEI-SAN...?
I KNEW THAT I'D BEEN BLAMING WATARU FOR EVERYTHING
SUBARU...
IT'S OKAY NOW...
EH...?
JUST SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FACE MY OWN WEAKNESS
THERE IS NO THORN...
IT ALREADY VANISHED LONG AGO...
I—
REALLY WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM, BACK IN THOSE DAYS...
It's okay. Leave her.
Did she fall asleep?
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT KEI-SAN?
BUT IT WASN'T JUST WATARU'S FAULT
THAT THINGS BECAME THE WAY THEY DID...

SUBARU...
SO I'LL BE OKAY NOW.
IT'S ALL OVER NOW...
...I NEVER TOLD YOU THIS KEI-SAN,
BUT I ASKED WATARU ABOUT YOU ONCE.

IT WAS QUITE A LONG TIME AFTER IT'D ALL HAPPENED
WHEN WATARU HAD CALMED DOWN A LOT... I GUESS I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT HIS REAL FEELINGS FOR YOU HAD BEEN
EH...?
HE DIDN'T SAY IT OUTRIGHT, BUT
I GOT THE FEELING THAT HE'D LOVED YOU TOO...
BUT YOU KNOW THE KIND OF GUY HE IS
MY GUESS IS... THAT HE COULDN'T GET OVER THE FACT THAT YOU WERE BOTH MEN.
THAT'S RIGHT...
THOUGH IT MIGHT BE A BIT LATE FOR YOU TO HEAR THIS NOW...
HEY WAS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU NOT TO TALK TO WATARU?
KEI-SAN?
CRUSH
YEAH...

IT'S ALL
YOU'RE ALREADY JEALOUS ENOUGH AS IT IS...
IN THE PAST NOW
HALF A YEAR LATER
I'M NOT JEALOUS!
LIAR
Your eyebrow's twitching
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO PICK US UP, HARUYA.
Leave me alone!
You look better with glasses on.
Segawa Station
NO PROBLEM! WOW, IT'S BEEN SO LONG!

THIS IS A REALLY NICE AREA, ISN'T IT?
HAHA... YEAH. IT'S A BIT OF A BACKWATER THOUGH.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU I'M IZUMI.
SORRY TO BARGE IN ON YOU GUYS LIKE THIS
NOT AT ALL! YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.
I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU! MY NAME'S ITOU. NICE TO MEET YOU
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAKI-KUN?
chirp
chirp
EH...
B-BUT...
It's embarrassing...
SORRY. HE'S A BIT SHY... THIS IS MAKI-KUN, THE GUY I SHARE A HOUSE WITH
HI THERE
how...
HE-HELLO!
...THEY MAKE A NICE PAIR.
Izumi-kun's quite the looker, isn't he?
Hey, what are you saying!?
HAHA... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT

KEI-SAN
HM?
ABOUT WATARU... THE NEW TREATMENT IS WORKING REALLY WELL
THEY SAY HE MIGHT EVEN MAKE A FULL RECOVERY
OH
REALLY...?
THAT'S GREAT NEWS...
NH
YEAH...
AH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE TWO DOING, OUT HERE IN THE OPEN WHERE EVERYONE CAN SEE!?*
Grab!
WELL, THERE'S NO ONE WALKING HERE EXCEPT US...
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHALL WE HOLD HANDS TOO?

T/N Public displays of affection are frowned upon in Japanese society even for heterosexual couples

ARE YOU BEING SHY?
You're telling me that now?
Anyway, it's not in my character
ANYTHING BUT THAT
I'M OVER THIRTY ALREADY, YOU KNOW
HERE COME ON
HEY, GUYS GET A MOVE ON!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL ANGRY FOR?
WHO ARE YOU CALLING SHY!?
AAH! QUICK, HARUYA-SAN, LOOK! THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS!
OH, YEAH!
YOU'RE FRIGGIN' DOING THE SAME!
DAMNIT, I CHANGED MY MIND. LET GO!
AHAHA
What are you laughing at, Suburu!?
Haha!
Soft Thorn Act.3/END

甘やかな棘

Sweet Thorn

Wataru Nakayama

Miyamoto Kou's

Amayakana Toge

chapter 4

PC: Ashcat

Scanner: Ashcat

Translation: Sandygoo

Proofreaders: Ashcat & Crayunderpants

Editor: Zila

QC: Ashcat, Sandygoo, & Crayunderpants

やわらかい棘
Soft Thorn
A sprinkling of snow

UH...
NH
AH...
CREAK CREAK
SUBARU...
UUH...
CREAK

NH...
UH...
UNTUCK
RATTLE
AH!
NH...
I'M COMING...
AH, NO, I'M...
WAIT... JUST A BIT MORE.
AH!
AH...!
HANG ON JUST A LITTLE LONGER...
I'M STILL...
AAAH..
CREAK
KEI-SAN
HAAH
HAAH!

PHEW...
...
Zzz
pad
SUBARU, WANT TO ORDER SOME TAKE-OUT FOR...
SU~ BA~ RU!
HN?
OH, I'M UP, I'M UP.
Y-YEAH
I JUST DON'T SEEM TO BE MAKING MUCH HEADWAY...
YOU DO KNOW HOW CLOSE YOUR DEADLINE IS, DON'T YOU?
COME ON, *PLEASE* YOU'RE ALREADY BEHIND AS IT IS!
HM...

KEI-SAN.
I LOVE YOU.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SINCE YOU ASKED: I'D MUCH RATHER EAT OUT THAN GET TAKE-AWAY—
...
START WRITING! NOW!

IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE OUR REUNION AFTER 12 YEARS APART
WE'VE HAD OUR TRIALS BUT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO AFFIRM THE FEELINGS WE HAVE FOR EACH OTHER
I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN ON HIS CASE ABOUT IT
My neck's just a bit
What's wrong?
WELL, HE SAYS THE STORY ISN'T MAKING MUCH PROGRESS
OF COURSE
YAGISAWA, HOW IS IZUMI-SENSEI'S SCRIPT COMING ALONG?
IT'LL BE LATE AGAIN
IF YOU COULD
I'LL TALK TO HIM ABOUT INCREASING HIS PACE A LITTLE THEN
YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER, HIS PREVIOUS NOVELS LEFT HIM WITH QUITE A GOOD REPUTATION SO THE READERS WILL HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF HIS WORK THIS TIME ROUND AS WELL
THINGS HAVE FINALLY STARTED SETTLING DOWN AND I CAN GET MY LIFE BACK ON TRACK
SURE
YES, SIR, I UNDERSTAND THAT
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

Empty
...
OPEN
WHERE DID HE SNEAK OFF TO NOW?
I'M THE EDITOR IN CHARGE OF AUTHOR IZUMI KYOUICHI
BUT LATELY, I'VE BEEN A BIT WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
SLAM
OH, WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
...WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
THAT REMINDS ME I GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU, KEI-SAN.
WHA?
RUSTLE
I JUST WENT OUT FOR A BIT OF SHOPPING TO CLEAR MY HEAD.
ME?
HERE...

T/N: $350.00 USD
NOT EXPENSIVE DESIGNER CLOTHES AGAIN...
35,000 yen...
BUT I JUST KNEW IT'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
It suits you!
ER, WELL, THANKS...BUT LOOK HERE, YOU!
HM?
SUBARU, DON'T YOU GET IT?
IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE BOTH YOUR ADVANCE AND YOUR ROYALTIES FOR THE BOOK!
I KNOW THAT WELL, GUESS I'D BETTER GET BACK TO WORK THEN
SUBARU
BIO
HM?
I'M NOT SURE

IT'S NOTHING I'M HEADING HOME
OKAY. ARE YOU COMING ROUND TOMORROW?
YEAH THANKS FOR THE SHIRT
IF IT'S MY FAULT OR NOT, BUT...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE LAX ABOUT WORK...
Bip
SHUT

YES. THEY WANT YOU BACK FOR A RE-EXAMINATION.
OH, RIGHT...
OH... THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAM?
YAGISAWA-SAN, DID YOU SEE THE RESULTS OF YOUR MEDICAL CHECK-UP*?
WHAT?
I'VE GOT A BIT OF A CHRONIC CONDITION. THAT'S PROBABLY IT.
REALLY? OH, HEY, THAT'S A NICE SHIRT YOU'RE WEARING!
ER... THANKS.
*T/N: Most companies have their staff undergo a yearly routine medical examination.
ANYWAY, MAKE SURE YOU GO BACK AND HAVE YOURSELF RE-CHECKED!
YEAH, YEAH.
AH, YES, I'M ON MY WAY!
thump
COME ON, HURRY UP!
YAGISAWA! THE MEETING'S ABOUT TO START

...SUBARU, WE CAN'T...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR WORK...
IT'S OKAY.
BUT...
MH!
zzzip
♡

SUBARU...
HAAH.
HAAH.
HAH...
...KEI-SAN?
...NH...
ARE YOU TIRED?
YEAH...
IT'S ALRIGHT. GO AHEAD AND SLEEP.
...SUBARU
HM?
THE MANUSCRIPT...

HEY
YES?
HN
CAN YOU SHOW ME HOW FAR YOU'VE GOTTEN WITH IT?
I'LL SHOW YOU WHEN I'VE WRITTEN A BIT MORE
Don't catch a cold
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT.
I THINK IT'S MORE LACK OF MOTIVATION THAN ANY-THING.
ARE YOU... GOING THROUGH A SLUMP OR SOMETHING?
OF COURSE, I BECAME AN AUTHOR BECAUSE I WANTED TO WRITE NOVELS, BUT
A SLUMP?
YOU WERE A HUGE DRIVING FORCE, AS WELL...

NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND EACH OTHER AGAIN, AND I CAN BE WITH YOU LIKE THIS...
I GUESS MY PREVIOUS MOTIVATION HAS FADED A LITTLE
...
SO IT'S ALL MY FAULT?
Haha
WELL, I SUPPOSE IN A WAY
SUBARU
HM?
...
HOW ABOUT WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER OUTSIDE OF WORK FOR A WHILE?
DON'T WANNA
IF YOU DO THAT, KEI-SAN, I REALLY WILL STOP WORKING

...
IS HE STILL A KID OR WHAT!?
OH, WHATEVER
I'M GOING TO SLEEP
...ARE YOU MAD?
NO.
...DID YOU FALL ASLEEP?
HEY... IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR HANAMI*
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT FUCKING CHERRY BLOSSOMS,
GOOD NIGHT...
YOU BLOCKHEAD.
KEI-SAN?
LET'S GO ON A TRIP SOMEPLACE TO VIEW THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS...

*T/N: Cherry blossom viewing party

...WHAT!?
IT ISN'T FINISHED YET?
BUT WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO SEND IT OVER TODAY...?
WHAT'S WRONG, YAGISAWA?
IT'S IZUMI-SENSEI'S MANU-SCRIPT... HE WAS SUPPOSED TO SEND IT OVER TODAY, BUT
CRACK
Y-YES.
JUST... HANG ON I'LL CALL YOU BACK
IT APPEARS HE'S NOWHERE NEAR DONE
EH!?
BUT WE ABSOLUTELY MUST HAVE IT BY TODAY!
I-I'LL GO OVER TO SEE HIM NOW!
RATTLE
YAGISAWA!!

I-I'M VERY SORRY, BUT...
HE KEPT REFUSING TO SHOW ME...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES! JUST GET OUT THERE NOW!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO KEEP A CONSTANT EYE ON HIS PROGRESS!?
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME!?
I TRULY APOLOGISE...
I'LL GO SEE HIM NOW
IT'S SO UNUSUAL FOR YAGISAWA-SAN TO LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN...
YEAH...
...I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW, SIR? SHOULD WE ARRANGE FOR A SUBSTITUTE PIECE?

SORRY...
I JUST CAN'T DO IT...
I'M REALLY SORRY...
CAN YOU JUST LET ME DROP THIS ONE...?
SUBARU...
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN LYING TO ME?
THE TRUTH IS YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WORKING ON THIS AT ALL, HAVE YOU?
...I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT I CAN'T WRITE ANYMORE
WHY NOT?
DID YOU FORGET THAT I'M YOUR EDITOR!?

I KNOW I'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY...
I TOTALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE WRITING!
IF YOU CAN'T TELL ME, WHO CAN YOU TELL?
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ME STAYING HERE AND WATCHING OVER YOU THE WHOLE TIME?
KEI-SAN!!
IT'S BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME, THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT...
...
...THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME SOONER?
I THINK...
I REALLY CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE
IF YOU HAD, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE...
...

MAYBE WHEN I WAS STILL SEARCHING FOR YOU—
I WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND MY REAL ABILITY BUT NOW—
!
I'M LEAVING
KEI-SAN!
KEI-SAN?

DON'T TOUCH ME!
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU...
OR I REALLY WILL HIT YOU.
...
SLAM
Step
Step
Step
SLAM

THAT
DAMNED
IDIOT.
YAGISAWA...
YES, SIR?
CAN I HAVE A WORD?
...WHAT IS IT?
Lobby
IT'S ABOUT IZUMI-SENSEI...

...DO YOU WANT ME TO ASSIGN A DIFFERENT EDITOR TO HIM?
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO
...HE EVEN CALLED THE OFFICE, YAGISAWA SAID THAT IT WAS ALL HIS FAULT, AND THAT HE'D LEARNED FROM HIS MISTAKE
...SIR, I THINK IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO CHANGE EDITORS
I SEE...
ALRIGHT. THEN THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO
YES, SIR I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE THIS HAS CAUSED
COUGH
WHAT'S WRONG?
thump
!
OH, IT'S NOTHING...

MY HEART JUST SUDDENLY...
YAGISAWA!?
OH CRAP...
YAGISAWA!
HEY, I NEED SOMEONE HERE! NOW!
IF WE STAY TOGETHER
WILL I
EVERYTHING UP FOR YOU?

SUBARU
KEI-SAN!
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE HOME!? I PHONED THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT,
AND THEY TOLD ME YOU'D COLLAPSED. SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN THE HOSPITAL!?
I'VE ALWAYS HAD THEM. IT'S NO BIG DEAL. ALL I NEED IS ONE INJECTION TO SETTLE THEM.
MEDICINE
WHAT—? THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THIS!
LOOK, I TOLD YOU IT'S NOT ANYTHING LIFE-THREATENING.
I'VE JUST BEEN A BIT TIRED OUT RECENTLY, THAT'S WHY—
..NAH.
IT WAS JUST A SUDDEN ONSET OF HEART PALPITATIONS. THAT'S ALL—
IS—IS THAT BECAUSE OF ME!?
SUBARU—

LET'S BREAK UP
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KEI-SAN?
WHY...
YOU CAN'T WRITE WHEN I'M TOGETHER WITH YOU, RIGHT?
!
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO STAY WITH YOU
WHEN I KNOW THAT I'M THE ONE MESSING YOU UP?
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE! I NEVER SAID THAT—
YOU FINALLY GOT YOUR BIG CHANCE AND NOW, JUST WHEN YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY UP—
HOW CAN I LET MYSELF BE THE ONE TO RUIN IT ALL FOR YOU!?
YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE!

KEI-SAN...
YOU CAN'T WRITE UNLESS YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR ME!?
FINE, THEN I'LL JUST DISAPPEAR AGAIN!
KEI-SAN, WAIT...
...
bang!
KEI-SAN...
I'LL QUIT MY JOB AND DAMN WELL VANISH FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
THEN YOU CAN GO ON SEARCHING FOR ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

I'M SORRY...
HEY...
PLEASE DON'T TALK LIKE THAT...
IF YOU LEFT ME NOW...
I'D FALL APART FOR REAL...
...WILL YOU GO BACK TO WRITING?

YOU HAVE A GIFT. DON'T LET IT GO TO WASTE
I'LL TRY...
...
YOUR TALENT FOR WRITING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
—SUBARU.
SUBARU!
IT'S YOUR OWN STRENGTH THAT'S BROUGHT YOU THIS FAR...
..RIGHT?
Rustle
Rattle Rattle
Swoosh
YEAH...

HEY, SUBARU
HM...?
WANT TO HAVE A HANAMI?
EH...?
OH, WOW...
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WERE CHERRY TREES THERE
YEAH...
IT'S AMAZING IT'S LIKE THE WIND IS MAKING IT RAIN PETALS.
I KNOW...
SUBARU

I'M SURE THERE'S STILL A LOT WE'VE YET TO FACE
BUT AS LONG AS WE STICK TOGETHER, WE'LL SEE IT THROUGH
YEAH...
BY THE WAY, WE WANT A SHORT STORY FROM YOU NEXT, 'KAY?
DO WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT NOW?
HEY, YOU, IF YOU MESS THIS NEXT ONE UP I'LL SERIOUSLY BREAK UP WITH YOU!
...
Rustle

Sweet Thorn

甘やかな棘

Digital Passion
http://manga.animea.net/digital-passion.html
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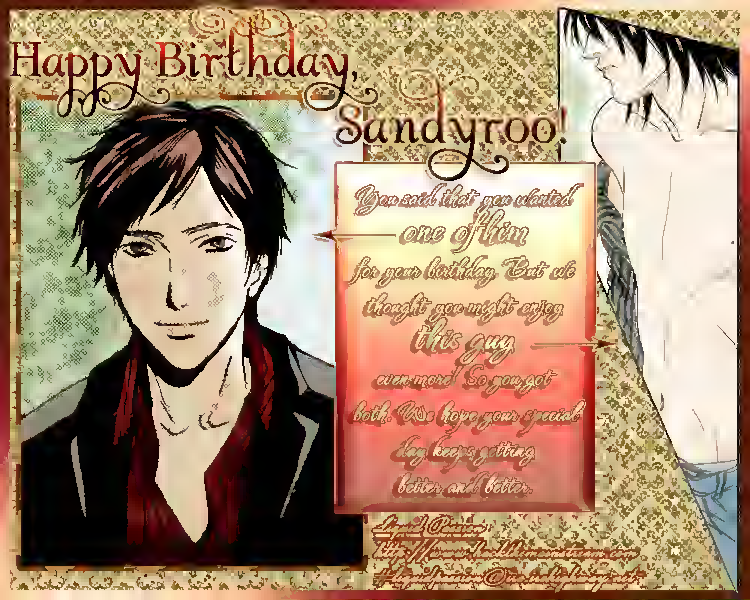
Miyamoto Kaori's Amagamiketen Togo

chapter 5

PC: Ashcat
Scanner: Ashcat
Cleans/Editor: Sandyroo
Proofreader: Ashcat
& Grayunderpants
Editor: Purple_Creature
QC: Ashcat
Kirsty &
Grayunderpants


Happy Birthday,
Sandyroo!
You said that you wanted
one of him
for your birthday. But we
thought you might enjoy
this guy
even more! So you got
both. We hope your special
day keeps getting
better and better.

うそつきな棘
Liar's Thorn

pour
I'M A BIT EARLY...
OH, WELL
pour

clack
FOLD
clack
THAT DOESN'T LOOK VERY SAFE...
pour
clack
WATCH OUT!
slip
!
STUMBLE

catch
PHEW...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YEAH
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M FINE
THE RAIN JUST MADE IT A BIT SLIPPERY

...KEI?
pour
WATARU
...
KEI...

THANKS
SEE YA.
SLAM
VROOM
THAT GUY
IS THE OLDER BROTHER OF MY BOYFRIEND...

TWELVE YEARS AGO
I REMEMBER THAT WITH HIM,
I WISHED I WERE A GIRL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE

I'D REALISED LONG AGO THAT I COULD NEVER LOVE ANYONE BUT A MAN
I'D ALREADY FULLY COME TO TERMS WITH IT, BUT...
Wahaha
Yay
YAGISAWA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
OH
I'M SORRY I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, THAT'S WHY I'M LATE
OH, I SEE
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR HEART RIGHT?
RIGHT...
OH AND IT'S HIGH TIME YOU DECIDED WHICH YOUR FIRST CHOICE UNIVERSITY WILL BE
YOU WANT TO GO TO ONE IN TOKYO, DON'T YOU?
NOW, IF YOU WANT TO WATCH P.E. CLASS, GO WATCH IT OUTSIDE!
YES, SIR
YES, SIR...
BUT WHEN I GOT TO MY THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL,
I WAS PUT INTO THE SAME CLASS WITH HIM... THE SAME CLASS WITH NAKAYAMA WATARU
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER

I CURSED THE FACT THAT I WAS A MAN
AND THAT I WAS GAY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
Pass! Pass the ball!
SENSEI... I NEED TO PEE
Ah, me too!
Me too, sir!
ROLL
HEY, COME BACK HERE! NAKAYAMAAA!!
HEY NAKAYAMA! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
YOU WHAT?
...I'M PULLING OUT FOR A SEC

KEI...
RATTLE
W-WATARU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT ABOUT CLASS?
SKIPPED IT
YOU'RE LATE FOR SCHOOL AGAIN?
MAN, HAVING A CHRONIC CONDITION SURE HAS ITS PERKS
HUH...?
LOOK AT YOU, SITTING AT MY DESK LIKE THAT
HE INTUITIVELY GUESSED MY FEELINGS FOR HIM
COME ON
THE USUAL PLACE
WHERE TO?

BE IT OUT OF CURIOSITY OR WHATEVER,
HE APPROACHED ME, AND MADE ME HIS NEW TOY.
WHENEVER HE'D GET TIRED OF GIRLS
HE'D USE ME AS A HANDY OUTLET FOR HIS SEXUAL URGES
AND YET, I STILL—
NH—
Heah...
ketball Club

OI I'M GONNA COME
grab
MH!
HAH
HAAH
HEY, YOU STILL LETTING THAT OLD FART OF A SUGARDADDY FUCK YOU?
I WAS GOING OUT WITH AN OLDER MAN AT THE TIME BUT
WHAT—? HE'S NOT MY SUGARDADDY
YOU GET MONEY AND SHIT FROM HIM, DON'T YOU? HELL YEAH, THAT'S A SUGARDADDY, AND A QUEER ONE AT THAT!
grip
IT'S FUCKING DISGUSTING, SO STOP DOING IT.
O-OKAY I GET IT—
I BROKE IT OFF WITH HIM, JUST LIKE WATARU TOLD ME TO
YEAH?
COME ON, THEN. I'LL DO YOURS, TOO.
HAAH

CLINK
NO... DON'T...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO? LOOK AT HOW HARD YOU ARE.
AH!
UHH
IS SUCKING ME OFF REALLY SUCH A TURN-ON FOR YOU?
MAN, FAGS LIKE YOU REALLY ARE BEYOND ALL HELP.
WHATEVER HE DID TO ME, WHATEVER CRUEL THINGS HE SAID TO ME,
AH...
NH..!
I WAS HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH HIM
C'MON, KEEP STILL

AH, KEI-SAN!
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
IS IT STILL RAINING OUTSIDE?
YOUR HAIR'S ALL WET!
Ahhh
Alright already
SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD
ARE YOU MAKING DINNER?
YUP.
JUST SOME CURRY.
WHEN I STARTED GOING OUT WITH WATARU'S BROTHER, SUBARU NAKAYAMA,
Want to eat now?
I THOUGHT THE WOUNDS FROM MY PAST WOULD SLOWLY BEGIN TO FADE
YEAH. JUST A BIT.

HEY, I CAN MANAGE FRIED EGGS AT LEAST!
I WOULDN'T CALL THAT COOKING KEI-SAN
WHEN DID YOU GET SO GOOD AT COOKING, ANYWAY?
WELL... I LIVED BY MYSELF FOR A LONG TIME...
TO BE HONEST, IT'S A LOT MORE UNUSUAL TO FIND PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING...
BUT THEN WHY—
There's salad, too.
IS THE IMAGE OF HOW WATARU LOOKED BACK THEN
RESURFACING SO CLEARLY IN MY MIND NOW—?
KEI-SAN?
!

AH... WHAT IS IT?
YOU'RE NOT EATING MUCH...
DID I MAKE IT TOO SPICY?
NO... MY STOMACH'S JUST FEELING A BIT QUEASY...
REALLY? I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE CURRY, THEN
YOU CAN STILL EAT THE SALAD THOUGH, RIGHT?
HM... HOW'S YOUR MANUSCRIPT COMING ALONG?
CLATTER
SUBARU
HM?
OH, IT'S GOING PRETTY SMOOTHLY RIGHT NOW...
IT'D BETTER BE! THE FUTURE OF THE COMPANY IS HANGING ON YOUR NEXT BOOK!
...YEAH RIGHT...
YOU ALWAYS SAY STUFF LIKE THAT TO TRY AND PUT PRESSURE ON ME...

HOW CAN THEY HAVE THE SAME BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH THEM
AND YET BE SO DIFFERENT?
SUBARU...
NH...
AH

UH...
HAAH...
ARE YOU OKAY, KEI-SAN...?
I'M FINE...
DO IT HARDER...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT?
AH!
D'YOU WANT ME TO BITE YOU AGAIN...?
RIGHT HERE...
MORE...
Nnnn
Nnnn
NNH...
AAH...
HARDER...

HAAH
Haah!
bite
NH!
AH...
pant
pant
pant
WATARU...
NGH...

Thrust
Thrust
WAIT...
OW...
THAT HURTS, WATARU...
Thrust
NH!
AH...
HAAH.
HAAH...
FULL...
...RIGHT, GUYS, YOU'RE UP.
EH?
OPEN
SHIT, WAS THAT FOR REAL JUST NOW!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE JUST WATCHED YOU FUCK HIM!
WERE YOU SERIOUSLY SCREWING HIM?
!

He's pretty cute.
HEHE...
NO...
WATARU...
DON'T!
STOP IT, PLEASE!
KEI-SAN!
!

...AH...
SUBARU...?
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU WERE MOANING IN YOUR SLEEP.
...OH...
YEAH I JUST HAD A STRANGE DREAM...
KEI-SAN.
MAYBE IT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE TIRED?
CAN'T YOU TAKE SOME TIME OFF WORK?
HN...
BUT THERE'S SOME STUFF THAT'S JUST COMING OUT OF PROOFREADING SO...
I GUESS I COULD TAKE A BREAK WHEN THAT'S FINISHED, THOUGH
...HOW COME YOU'RE STILL UP, ANYWAY?
I WAS WORKING.
...OH... WOW. YOU'RE ACTUALLY PUTTING IN SOME EFFORT, AREN'T YOU?
I'M SCARED OF GETTING SHOUTED AT BY YOU IF I DON'T!

GOOD NIGHT
CLOSE
I
WHY NOW?
WHY IS MY HEART BEING THROWN INTO TURMOIL AFTER ALL THIS TIME ...?
I'D LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT ALL.
I THOUGHT

YES, SIR
I PICKED UP THE MANUSCRIPT WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS
YES I'M ON MY WAY BACK TO THE OFFICE NOW...
OKAY BYE
BUZZ
CALL
HM?
WHOSE NUMBER COULD THAT BE...?
Damn, I'm late for the train.
HELLO?
...Kei?
?
WHO'S THIS? HARUYA?
PRESS
1 Ten
2 Tokyo
3
...it's Nataru.
...EH?
I MUST BE CURSED
IT'S THE SAME CURSE FROM TWELVE YEARS AGO...

I want to see you.
There are things we need to talk about...
SUBARU?
HM?
OF COURSE I KNOW
OH, SORRY. DID I INTERRUPT YOU?
NO, NOT AT ALL. WHAT IS IT?
...YOU OKAY? OR ARE YOU STILL NOT FEELING WELL?
THAT RIGHT NOW...

IS THIS YOUNG GUY MY BOYFRIEND...
ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME
I SAW WATARU THE OTHER DAY
Y'KNOW...
I RAN INTO HIM DOWN AT THE ENTRANCE...
REMEMBER THE DAY I CAME ROUND TO YOUR PLACE?
HUH!?
KEI-SAN
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN ACTING ALL STRANGE?
BUT STILL...
WHAT?
HN
I MEAN, I DIDN'T ACTUALLY TALK TO HIM OR ANYTHING, BUT...
TICK

...YOU SAID YOU'D PUT ALL THAT BEHIND YOU, DIDN'T YOU?
SO WHY DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
HE PHONED ME TO SAY HE WANTS TO SEE ME
HE SAID HE GOT IT OFF YOUR MOBILE WHILE YOU WEREN'T LOOKING
WHAT!?
HOW DID HE EVEN KNOW YOUR NUMBER?
JEEZ, THAT GUY NEVER CHANGES
SO?
SAME AS ALWAYS—IT MADE ME THINK THAT YOU GUYS MAKE A FINE PAIR OF BROTHERS IF ONLY FROM THE OUTSIDE
ONLY FROM?
...ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO MEET HIM?
HOW'D YOUR FIRST CHAT IN TWELVE YEARS GO?

...DON'T YOU TRUST ME OR SOMETHING?
I MEAN, I STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT WENT ON BETWEEN YOU TWO BACK THEN...
IF I'M HONEST...
I'M NOT FEELING VERY CONFIDENT HERE
...YOU'RE BEING SILLY
EH?
BUT I KNOW THAT YOU LOVED HIM.
HE'S A MARRIED MAN, WITH A KID NO LESS.
I NO LONGER HAVE THE ENERGY TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY ILLICIT AFFAIRS.
SO...IF YOU SEE HIM AGAIN NOW, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK YOU MIGHT...

GOOD QUESTION
THEN WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN?
I GUESS THERE'S STILL SOME QUESTIONS I'D LIKE ANSWERED
OKAY THEN
GO MEET HIM
HEY THERE
SO YOU REALLY CAME
WATARU
OH
YEAH
JUST AN AFTER-EFFECT FROM MY DISEASE
HOW'S YOUR LEG?

YEAH.
I'M EVEN THINKING ABOUT GOING BACK TO WORK AGAIN NEXT MONTH
OH, RIGHT...
IS IT ALL CURED NOW?
YOUR DISEASE...
IT'S STRANGE TO THINK
THAT THIS MAN SITTING IN FRONT OF ME NOW
FLICK
MIND IF I SMOKE?
HM?
OH GO AHEAD.
IS REALLY THE SAME WATARU FROM BACK THEN...

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK?
YEAH
YOU'RE TOGETHER WITH SUBARU NOW?
YEAH
I GOT MYSELF THE BROTHER SET
CLONK
HEHE
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
YOU GUYS WERE ALWAYS CLOSE EVEN BACK THEN
YOU KNEW ABOUT THAT?
WELL YEAH
HOW COULD I NOT NOTICE THAT MY GIRL WAS GETTING ALL COZY WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER?
WHO ARE YOU CALLING "YOUR GIRL"?
HEH THAT'S ALL LONG AGO NOW

KEI
I'M REALLY SORRY
I KNOW I WAS A CRUEL GUY IN THOSE DAYS
KEI?
HUH?
OH, YEAH
WATARU
IT'S NICE WEATHER TODAY, ISN'T IT?

I'M SURE THAT THOSE WERE THE WORDS
roar
I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ALL THAT OLD STUFF
I'D BEEN WAITING TO HEAR ALL THIS TIME...
WELCOME BACK!
SUBARU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
OH...
AH
...!

I GOT WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE COMING BACK AGAIN
SO I'VE BEEN SITTING OUT HERE WAITING THE WHOLE TIME
...YOU REALLY ARE THE BETTER ONE BY FAR.
I MEAN, BETTER THAN WATARU
HUH?
I'M BETTER LOOKING THAN HIM TOO DON'T YOU THINK?
HM, I WONDER.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME KEI-SAN!

YOU TOLD ME I'D GROW UP TO BE A BETTER MAN THAN WATARU.
YOU HAVE AN AWFULLY GOOD MEMORY FOR THINGS THAT HAPPENED TWELVE YEARS AGO. DON'T YOU?
I BECAME A BETTER MAN THOUGH DIDN'T I?
YEAH YEAH
AW COME ON! DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW INSINCERE IT SOUNDS IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT!?
AHAHA...
SO IT'S ALL THANKS TO ME THAT THE COMPANY'S STOCKS WILL BE SAVED, RIGHT?
Cheeky brat.
YOU DID!?
OH BY THE WAY I FINISHED THE MANUSCRIPT
YOU ALREADY KNOW, DON'T YOU!?
SUBARU...

CLOSE
KEI!
THIS WAY
IS EVERYONE OUT?
MY LITTLE BROTHER MIGHT BE AROUND SOMEWHERE
You've got a brother?
I'm afraid so.
THE TRUTH IS...

HEY, WATARU.
WHAT?
THERE'S YOUR BROTHER, IN THE KITCHEN.
AWW, HE'S CUTE.
smile
THAT EVEN BACK THEN
HE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE YOU THOUGH, WATARU
PSH.
I REALLY LIKED YOU...
Liar's thorn~/END

Amayakana Toge

甘やかな棘

Wishing a very
Happy Birthday
to
Miyamoto Kano!
June 15, 2008
Thank you for all the
unforgettable characters
in your incredible stories.
We hope your day is special!
From the staff of:
LIQUID PASSION
www.HackTheMainstream.Com

Miyamoto Kano's

Tokyo chapter 6

PC: Ashcat
Scanner: Ashcat
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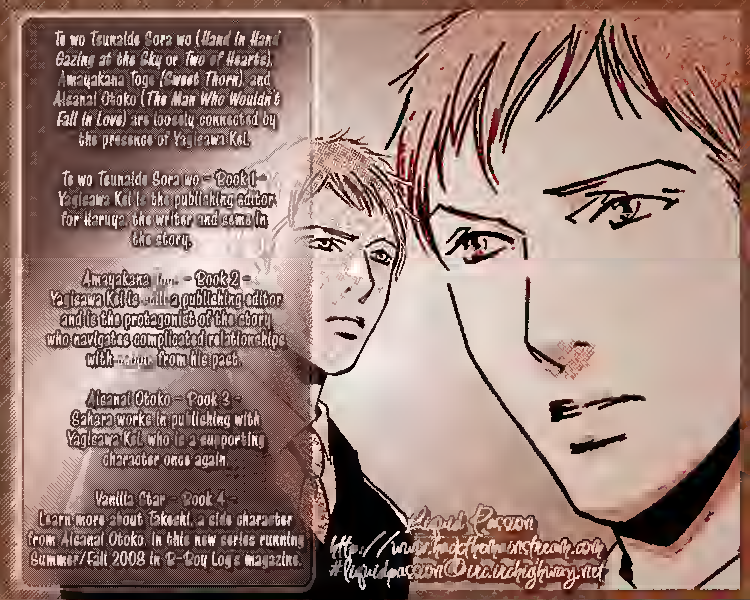

Tsuwo Tsunaida Sora wo (Hand in Hand Gazing at the Sky or Two of Hearts), Amayakana Toge (Sweet Thorn) and Aisenai Otoko (The Man Who Wouldn't Fall in Love) are loosely connected by the presence of Yagisawa Kei.
Tsuwo Tsunaida Sora wo – Book 1 – Yagisawa Kei is the publishing editor for Haruyo, the writer and icon in the story.
Amayakana Toge – Book 2 – Yagisawa Kei is still a publishing editor and is the protagonist of the story who navigates a complicated relationships with those from his past.
Aisenai Otoko – Book 3 – Sahara works in publishing with Yagisawa Kei who is a supporting character once again.
Vanilla Char – Book 4 – Learn more about Takeshi, a side character from Aisenai Otoko, in this new series running Summer/Fall 2008 in B-Boy Logs magazine.
Liquid Passion
http://www.fanfiction.net/~liquidpassion
LiquidPassion@theinkhighway.net

甘やかな棘
Amayakana Toge

―プロローグ―
― Prologue ―

AH, HELLO. IS THAT YOU, ERI?
I'M ALL MOVED IN NOW. THANKS SO MUCH!
Oh, you're very welcome!
How's your new place?
IT'S NICE ENOUGH, JUST FEELS KINDA BIG AND EMPTY.
Oh, come on, that's totally fashionable these days!
IT IS?

YOU'RE A POPULAR YOUNG AUTHOR. YOU KNOW WE CAN'T HAVE YOU LIVING IN A HOVEL
Yeah, yeah, I get it.
So... have you managed to find him yet?
WHO DO YOU MEAN?
Aw, sweetie, don't play innocent with me.
Isn't he the one you've been thinking about for the last twelve years?
HM—
I'M NOT TELLING
FLIP
Whaaat? Come on!

ding dong
Oh, okay. Bye, then!
AH SORRY SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR
KATSUMI...
!
YES ?
...CAN I COME IN?
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?

I FOLLOWED THE MOVING VAN
...COME IN, THEN.
...WAS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED?
I GUESS.
...BIG PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE
...
IF YOU'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT THAT AGAIN, JUST GO HOME
I'VE GOT LOTS OF UNPACKING TO DO.
SUBARU...

WON'T YOU FORGIVE ME NO MATTER HOW MUCH I APOLOGISE?
BUT...!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I DID WHAT I DID! YOU DROVE ME TO IT!
SO YOU REALLY ARE BRINGING THIS UP AGAIN...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT
...HOW EXACTLY IS IT MY FAULT?
PLEASE, JUST GO HOME...
THAT GUY YOU LIKED WHEN YOU WERE A KID. YOU NEVER FORGOT ABOUT HIM, DID YOU?!
THAT'S WHY I GOT LONELY... THAT'S WHY I CH-CHEATED ON YOU...
BECAUSE OF THAT OTHER PERSON...

SUBARU!
KATSUMI...
EH...?
YOU'RE PERFECTLY RIGHT, KATSUMI
I'M THE ONE TO BLAME
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT HIM, EVEN NOW...
I ONLY WENT OUT WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU HAPPEN TO RESEMBLE HIM A LITTLE...
SLAP
!

SLAM
THAT'S RIGHT
MY FIRST LOVE FROM TWELVE YEARS AGO IS STILL ALL I THINK ABOUT.
I KNOW
THAT I'M BEING MORE THAN A LITTLE OBSESSIVE

...YES, HELLO.
THIS IS IZUMI.
YES... THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING MY WORK.
I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A CERTAIN YAGISAWA-SAN...
OF COURSE.
BY THE WAY, ABOUT THE EDITOR WHO'LL BE WORKING WITH ME...
YES
I SEE
...YES
THANK YOU.
beep
3:00 PM
Cerulean Hotel
Lounge Cafe
THEN COULD I ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIM TO TALK THINGS OVER...?
TAP

KEI-SAN
NOT MUCH LONGER TILL I GET TO SEE YOU...

OH, GOD...
Fidget
Fidget
I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
KEI-SAN
I THOUGHT I HAD A TON OF THINGS I NEEDED TO ASK HIM, BUT
MY MIND'S GONE TOTALLY BLANK...
WELCOME, SIR.

A TABLE FOR ONE PERSON?
NO.
I'M MEETING SOMEONE IS IZUMI-SAN HERE?
THIS WAY SIR
THANKS
HE'S WAITING OVER AT THAT TABLE

smile
SUBARU
trip

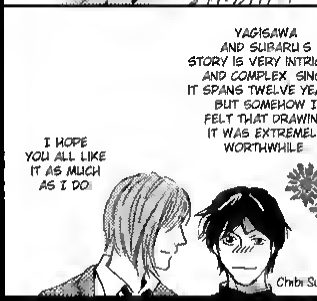
I LOVE YOU TOO
SUBARU
KEI-SAN
IT'S ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN TWELVE YEARS…
HOW DO YOU DO? I'M YAGISAWA FROM BUNGEI PUBLISHING.
THE PLEASURE'S MINE I'M IZUMI KYOUICHI

Amayakana Toge - Prologue /END

POST SCRIPT

HELLO, EVERYONE THIS IS MIYAMOTO KANO THANK YOU FOR READING TO THE VERY END
IT'S BEEN ABOUT A YEAR SINCE I LAST PRODUCED A COMIC
bow!

IT'S A LOVE STORY SPANNING BOTH THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE ETERNALLY UNLUCKY (??) EDITOR YAGISAWA KEI
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE IN THE SAME UNIVERSE AS "TE WO TSUNAIDE, SORA WO"


YAGISAWA AND SUBARU'S STORY IS VERY INTRICATE AND COMPLEX SINCE IT SPANS TWELVE YEARS. BUT SOMEHOW I FELT THAT DRAWING IT WAS EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE
I HOPE YOU ALL LIKE IT AS MUCH AS I DO!
Chibi Subaru

THE STORIES FOR THIS UNIVERSE ARE STILL CONTINUING! NEXT, I'M PLANNING ON CHANGING THE MAIN CHARACTERS AND CONTINUING TO EXPAND THIS WORLD IN B-BOY NOVELS MAGAZINE.
I'm thinking of letting this guy appear next...
YOU MIGHT SEE YAGISAWA AND SUEARU AGAIN IN THE ODD CAMEO APPEARANCE! MAKE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THEM. ★
In a way, these two are hapelessly smitten with one another
I HOPE WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN IN MY NEXT COMIC! ♡
FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO EXTEND MY SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO MY EDITORS T-SAMA AND I-SAMA, AND EVERYONE FROM THE PUBLISHING COMPANY!
Till next time!

Please support Japanese Yaoi
by buying the books when they are published!